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U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

★ APR 18 2014 ★

LONG ISLAND OFFICE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

-----X
BRIAN M. JACKSON,
individually and on behalf of a class,

Plaintiff,

v.

CARIBBEAN CRUISE LINE, INC.
and DOES 1-10,

Defendants.
-----X

CV - 14 2485

**SPATT, J.
TOMLINSON, M**

COMPLAINT – CLASS ACTION

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Brian M. Jackson brings this action to secure redress for the actions of defendant Caribbean Cruise Line, Inc., in sending or causing the sending of unsolicited text message calls (“spam”) to cellular telephones, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 (“TCPA”).

2. In order to protect the privacy of cellular subscribers, and to avoid forcing recipients of spam to pay for it, the TCPA prohibits automated text messages to cellular phones.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1367. *Mims v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 751-53 (2012); *Brill v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.*, 427 F.3d 446 (7th Cir. 2005).

4. On information and belief the amount in controversy, with respect to the class as a whole, exceeds \$5 million.

5. Venue in this District is proper for the same reason.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Brian M. Jackson, is a resident of this district.

7. Defendant Caribbean Cruise Line, Inc. is a Florida corporation that has its

principal offices at 5100 North State Road 7, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319.

8. Defendants John Does 1-10 are other natural or artificial persons that were involved in the sending of the text message calls described below. Plaintiff does not know who they are.

FACTS

9. On the following dates, plaintiff Brian M. Jackson received unsolicited text messages on plaintiff's cellular telephone: March 25, 2014.

10. Discovery may reveal additional text message calls as well.

11. Defendant Caribbean Cruise Line, Inc. is responsible for making or causing the making of the text message calls.

12. Plaintiff had no prior relationship with defendant and had not authorized the calls.

13. On information and belief, the text message calls were made as part of a mass broadcasting of text message calls.

14. There is no reasonable means for plaintiff or other recipients of defendants' text message calls to avoid receiving them.

15. The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227, prohibits unsolicited text message calls to cell phones:

... (b) Restrictions on use of automated telephone equipment.

(1) Prohibitions. It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States, or any person outside the United States if the recipient is within the United States--

(A) to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice-- * * *

(iii) to any telephone number assigned to a paging service, cellular telephone service, specialized mobile radio service, or other radio common carrier service, or any service for which the called party is charged for the call . . .

COUNT I – TCPA

16. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶ 1-15.
17. The TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3), provides:

Private right of action.

A person or entity may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or rules of court of a State, bring in an appropriate court of that State—

(A) an action based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation,

(B) an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater, or

(C) both such actions.

If the Court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection, the court may, in its discretion, increase the amount of the award to an amount equal to not more than 3 times the amount available under the subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

18. Plaintiff and each class member suffered damages as a result of receipt of the unsolicited text message calls, in that they were required to pay for such receipt, either on a per message basis or because the receipt counted against the number of minutes or messages they pay for. Furthermore, plaintiff's statutory right of privacy was invaded.

19. Plaintiff and each class member is entitled to statutory damages.
20. Defendants violated the TCPA even if their actions were only negligent.
21. Defendants should be enjoined from committing similar violations in the future.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

22. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of a class, consisting of (a) all persons (b) who, on or after a date four years prior to the filing of this action (28 U.S.C. §1658), (c) were sent text message calls by or on behalf of defendant Caribbean Cruise Line, Inc.

23. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that there are more than 40 members of the class.

24. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The predominant common questions include:

a. Whether defendants engaged in a pattern of sending automated text message calls.

b. Whether defendants thereby violated the TCPA.

25. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in handling class actions and claims involving unlawful business practices. Neither plaintiff nor plaintiff's counsel have any interests which might cause them not to vigorously pursue this action.

26. A class action is an appropriate method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The interest of class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against defendants is small because it is not economically feasible to bring individual actions.

27. Several courts have certified class actions under the TCPA. *Sadowski v. Med1 Online, LLC*, 07 C 2973, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41766 (N.D.Ill., May 27, 2008); *CE Design Ltd. v. Cy's Crabhouse North, Inc.*, 259 F.R.D. 135 (N.D.Ill. 2009); *Targin Sign Sys. v. Preferred Chiropractic Ctr., Ltd.*, 679 F. Supp. 2d 894 (N.D.Ill. 2010); *Garrett v. Ragle Dental Lab, Inc.*, 10 C 1315, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 108339, 2010 WL 4074379 (N.D.Ill., Oct. 12, 2010); *Hinman v. M & M Rental Ctr.*, 545 F.Supp. 2d 802 (N.D.Ill. 2008); *Clearbrook v. Rooflifters, LLC*, 08 C 3276, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 72902 (N.D. Ill. July 20, 2010) (Cox, M.J.); *G.M. Sign, Inc. v. Group C Communs., Inc.*, 08 C 4521, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17843 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 25, 2010); *Holtzman v. Turza*, 08 C 2014, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95620 (N.D.Ill., Oct. 14, 2009); *Kavu, Inc. v. Omnipak Corp.*, 246 F.R.D. 642 (W.D.Wash. 2007); *Display South, Inc. v. Express Computer Supply, Inc.*, 961 So.2d 451, 455 (La. App. 1st Cir. 2007); *Display South, Inc. v. Graphics House Sports Promotions, Inc.*, 992 So. 2d 510 (La. App. 1st Cir. 2008); *Lampkin v.*

GGH, Inc., 146 P.3d 847 (Ok. App. 2006); *ESI Ergonomic Solutions, LLC v. United Artists Theatre Circuit, Inc.*, 203 Ariz. (App.) 94, 50 P.3d 844 (2002); *Core Funding Group, LLC v. Young*, 792 N.E.2d 547 (Ind.App. 2003); *Critchfield Physical Therapy v. Taranto Group, Inc.*, 293 Kan. 285; 263 P.3d 767 (2011); *Karen S. Little, L.L.C. v. Drury Inns, Inc.*, 306 S.W.3d 577 (Mo. App. 2010); *Travel 100 Group, Inc. v. Empire Cooler Service, Inc.*, 03 CH 14510 (Cook Co. Cir. Ct., Oct. 19, 2004); *Rawson v. C.P. Partners LLC*, 03 CH 14510 (Cook Co. Cir. Ct., Sept. 30, 2005); *Nicholson v. Hooters of Augusta, Inc.*, 245 Ga.App. 363, 537 S.E.2d 468 (2000).

28. Management of this class action is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class actions, e.g. for securities fraud.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests that the Court enter judgment in favor of plaintiff and the class and against defendants for:

- a. Actual damages;
- b. Statutory damages;
- c. An injunction against further text message calls to cellular telephones;
- d. Costs of suit;
- e. Such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.



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Pro hac vice admission to be applied for.

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury.


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NOTICE OF LIEN AND ASSIGNMENT

Please be advised that we claim a lien upon any recovery herein for 1/3 or such amount as a court awards. All rights relating to attorney's fees have been assigned to counsel.


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